United Nations S/2001/705

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 July 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 16 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter dated 29 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to you (S/2001/657 [i.e. 651]), in which the writer criticizes the demand made by Mr. Riyadh Al-Qaysi, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, at the resumed open meeting of the Security Council held on 28 June 2001, that the Council should discharge its obligations with respect to ridding the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction. On instructions from my Government, and in view of the misrepresentations and distortions of fact contained in the Iranian letter, I have the honour to present the responses set forth hereunder.

1. The statement of Mr. Riyadh Al-Qaysi, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, focused on the need to implement paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and rid the Middle East region, of which Iran is a part, of all weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Al-Qaysi stated as follows (S/PV.4336 (Resumption 1)):

> "It is regrettable that the Security Council has totally neglected the application of paragraph 14 of resolution 687 (1991). The Council did not take any measure of any sort to implement this paragraph.
>
> "Disarmament cannot take place in a vacuum. Unless the Council in due seriousness takes all necessary measures to deal with weapons of mass destruction possessed by Israel and with programmes for possessing such weapons by Iran, the Council will remain guilty of using double standards and selectivity that run counter to the United Nations Charter."

We find it surprising that Iran should protest a call for the implementation of this paragraph from a Security Council resolution that was adopted under Chapter VII while it claims that it is in compliance with all the international agreements and regimes relating to weapons of mass destruction.

2. The Iranian letter resorts to raking over the past and to repeating Zionist allegations concerning Iraq's possession and use of weapons of mass destruction. It bases itself on "evidences uncovered by the United Nations Special Commission in the 1990s" and on a distorted interpretation of Security Council resolutions 612 (1988) and 620 (1988) in order to exonerate itself of the charge of possessing and using weapons of mass destruction.

01-46038 (E) 180701 180701

The grounds used by Iran to accuse Iraq of using chemical weapons and to exonerate itself appear to be self-contradictory, and Security Council resolutions 612 (1988) and 620 (1988) refer to Iran's use of chemical weapons in its war of aggression against Iraq. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 620 [i.e. 612] (1998), the Council "expects" Iran "to refrain from the future use of chemical weapons in accordance with" its "obligations under the Geneva Protocol". It is also the case that many reports and studies published since 1988 have confirmed the use by Iran of chemical weapons in its war of aggression against Iraq. We can refer, in particular, to a 1990 report of the Institute of Strategic Studies, which confirmed that it was Iranian bombardment with chemical weapons that killed the civilians in Halabja. We can also refer to an article in *The Washington Post* for 3 May 1990 by the correspondent Patrick E. Tyler (S/21329, annex), which states, citing a study by the United States Department of Defense, that Iran used chemical weapons at Halabja. The article goes on to say that:

> "The study asserts that Iran may have been the first to fire artillery shells filled with deadly cyanide gas into Halabja when Iranian commanders mistakenly believed that Iraqi forces were occupying the city ..."

The article also states that:

> "During the second day of the battle, according to the Pentagon reconstruction, an indeterminate number of Iranian chemical bombs and shells were dropped on Halabja ..."

3. The Iranian letter states that Iran, unlike Iraq, has signed or acceded to the international disarmament conventions and treaties, and it calls upon the international community to ensure that Iraq declares that it will become a party to the relevant international agreements. The statements made in the Iranian letter amount to a major distortion of the facts, and the reality is that Iraq was among the first countries to sign the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that it acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1991. Iraq continues to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency within the framework of the Agency's full-scope safeguards regime. Even the Zionist fanatics have failed to produce a single piece of evidence that Iraq has programmes or equipment for weapons of mass destruction.

4. It is surprising that the Iranian letter neglects to make any reference to the weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons, that the Zionist entity possesses and that represent the greatest of dangers to regional and international peace and security. It appears that Iran aspires to become a nuclear Power, just as it endeavours to conceal its armaments cooperation with the Zionist entity of which the Irangate scandal was one manifestation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **A-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative